

Thunderbolt

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Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.
Growing Warriors and Leaders for Our Aerospace Forces

March 8, 2002

Thunderbolts win AETC supply awards

By Airman 1st Class
Susan McQueary
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Five members of the 56th Supply Squadron recently received AETC Outstanding Supply and Fuels awards.

The winners and their awards are: Maj. Peter Hofelich, 56th SUPS commander, the Col. F. Badger Johnson III Senior Supply Manager award; Donnie Hall, 56th SUPS asset control section chief, the Junior Supply Manager award; Kimberly Snider, 56th SUPS supply technician, the Supply Technician award; Senior Airman Michael Nelson Jr., 56th SUPS fuels specialist, the Junior Fuels Technician award; and Roy Bateman, 56th SUPS aircraft refueling vehicle operator, the Fuels Civilian Technician award.

Major Hofelich manages the largest fighter wing supply account in the Air Force and led the squadron to win the 2001 AETC Supply Daedalian Award.

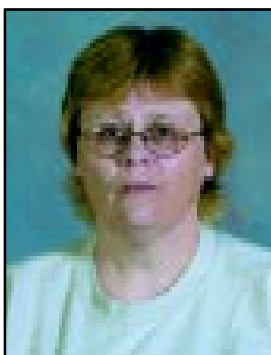
"There are many reasons why



Hofelich



Hall



Snider



Nelson



Bateman

Major Hofelich is number one," said Col. Art Cameron, 56th Logistics Group commander. "His lean-forward approach to mission support has reduced engine MICAPs (mission capable parts) almost 90 percent, leading to the wing producing the first spare engine in recent years. Major Hofelich is truly a shining star in the logistics group, providing flawless support to a demanding wing mission, despite commanding the heaviest deployed squadron at Luke in support of Operation Enduring Freedom."

Major Hofelich also executed the

largest fighter refueling tasking in the Air Force with zero takeoff delays.

Mr. Hall completely redesigned the 56th SUPS' 64,000-square-foot warehouse layout and reorganized more than 30,000 line items to accommodate consolidation efforts.

He also manages the F-16 mobility readiness spare package for the 944th Fighter Wing with more than 32,000 total units valued at \$15 million.

"Mr. Donnie Hall is one of those unsung heroes whose hard work and dedication go unnoticed, but without him,

neither the 56th Fighter Wing, nor the 944th Fighter Wing would be able to accomplish the mission of training the world's finest fighter pilots," said Deryl Wall, 56th SUPS Combat Operations Flight superintendent. "Managing AETC's largest warehouse and fast operations requires a person who places mission before self, and continuously strives to provide the maintainers the right part at the right time. Mr. Hall is that person."

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56th FW commander conducts enlisted calls

By Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Roady
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Kudos, cautions and encouragement topped the list of information Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, shared with Airmen at the enlisted calls Feb. 28 in Hangar 914.

General Sargeant applauded the wing, which recently won the Air Force Association's Citation of Honor, and congratulated services personnel, who are in the running for AETC top squadron honors.

Luke's pending construction and renovation of Ocotillo Manor is also a reason for Thunderbolts to be proud, General Sargeant said, "others Air Force-wide will emulate our new housing."

General Sargeant passed along the admiration of civic leaders who recently toured Luke and two other Air Force bases. "They were impressed with our machines, like the new Joint Strike Fighter," he said, "but more so by meeting you people in BDUs and flight suits."

Local cities and sports teams, General Sargeant said, are supporting Luke as never before. He invited troops to take advantage of the "appreciation days" and military specials sponsored by various organizations, noting they are now offering more weekend and evening events.

General Sargeant urged personnel to give generously to the Air Force Assistance Fund campaign through March 29 and to sign up for the Thrift Savings Plan during open enrollment May 15 through July 31.

General Sargeant also encouraged all members to bring their families on base for an exclusive Thunderbirds demonstration March 22, before the public air show March 23 and 24.

Luke Days 2002 is expected to draw 110,000 guests daily, General Sargeant said, so security will be an issue. He requested vigilance from all personnel, and called for 600-700 volunteers.

General Sargeant said security will remain a concern even after the air show.

"Vigilance is imperative during this war on terrorism," General Sargeant warned. "Vary your patterns traveling to and from work, and

See Call, Page 5

AETC recognizes 56th SFS

By Airman Kara Philp
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 56th Security Forces Squadron has captured the AETC 2001 Outstanding Active Duty Medium Security Forces Unit award. Command officials made the announcement in February.

The unit also won the award, which is based on various aspects of squadron performance, in 1999 when it was named a finalist for the Air Force-level award.

"The entire unit is very excited," said Maj. Tracey Meck, 56th SFS commander. "We have all worked very hard and achieved a lot."

Although the squadron won the award for the best medium size unit, Luke's security forces members are responsible for defending both the 56th and 944th Fighter Wings, which include more than 200 F-16s.

After the Sept. 11th terrorist attacks, the 56th SFS improved and demonstrated the skills necessary to garner the award.

- ♦ The 56th SFS provided aircraft security that allowed the wing to execute its first-ever combat air patrol mission.

- ♦ The squadron trained and incorporated 81 activated reservists and 405 Reserve Augmentation Duty (READY) personnel into the base security plan.

- ♦ Combat Arms Training and Maintenance increased firing by 272 percent to support base security and contingency deployments, including the U.S. Southern Command and Operations Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom, and Noble Eagle.

- ♦ Sixty-five squadron members deployed worldwide for a total of 3,944 man days in support of these operations.

"The people in the 56th Security Forces Squadron earned and deserve this award," said Col. Bob Worley, 56th Support Group commander. "The effort they put forth to keep the mission and our people safe since last September is just amazing. I'm proud of them all."

The squadron also supported community activities including the D.A.R.E. program at Luke Elementary School, raised more than \$100,000 for Arizona Special Olympics by participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, and conducted more than 30 Military Working Dog demonstrations for more than 2,100 people.

The squadron improved working conditions by replacing the CATM firing backstop, renovating the control center and purchasing video recorders for the confinement facility and vehicles. In addition to installing bollards at the main gate to meet AETC requirements, the squadron remodeled MWD kennels and corrected 10 safety deficiencies. Armory improvement, including new carpet, radio rack and workstation, was a result of



Tech. Sgt. Alan Lewis

Airman 1st Class Brent Canzellarini, 56th Security Forces Squadron Bravo Flight armorer, inspects a weapon for cleanliness at the 56th SFS armory.

self-help projects and saved the Air Force \$1,500.

Squadron members also attended 21 formal schools, which contributed to both unit readiness and member career development, accumulating more than 868 temporary duty school days.

"Each member of the unit provided valuable inputs for all the projects that have been accomplished," said Master Sgt. Patrick Bergeron, 56th SFS security forces NCO. "This is an individual unit award, but there is no way the 56th Security Forces Squadron could have been submitted for, never mind win, this prestigious award without the active involvement and support of wing leadership and base units."

Action Line



The 56th Fighter Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct line to me. I get personally involved in every reply. Your ideas and concerns help build a stronger foundation on which we can successfully complete our mission and take care of our people.

Before you call the Action Line, please give Luke's professionals a chance to answer your question in concert with your unit chain of command. If the appropriate expert is unable to provide a satisfactory response, call me at (623) 856-7011 or send an e-mail to command.actionline@luke.af.mil. Please include your name and telephone number so I can provide a personal reply to your concern. Together we can make Luke Air Force Base a better place to live and work.

Who to call:	
Fraud, waste and abuse hotline	856-6149
Civil engineer customer service	856-7231
Patient advocate	856-9100
Legal assistance	856-6901
Law enforcement desk	856-5970
Housing Office	856-7643
Military pay	856-7028

Long traffic light times

Comment: I was attempting to cross Litchfield Road and observed that it took the traffic light at the intersection of Lightning Street and Litchfield Road approximately 2-1/2 minutes to change from red to green for traffic going from one side of the base to the other and only about 35-40 seconds for it to turn to red again. This equates to up to seven plus minutes sitting at that intersection if there is a lot of traffic. Can anything be done to adjust the light so it doesn't take so long to change?

Answer: Waiting an extended period of time at a traffic light can be very frustrating. The problem you mentioned was caused by a malfunction in that traffic light. We notified the City of Glendale who fixed the problem and you should now wait no longer than 40 to 45 seconds.

E-mail, command.actionline@luke.af.mil or call, (623) 856-7011.
For family matters, visit www.luke.af.mil/lukefam or call, (623) 856-4243

Sortie Scoreboard

Fiscal year 2002 programmed flight training

	To date	Goal
Sorties flown	15,696	39,376
Flying hours	21,343.8	51,687
Pilot graduates	298	995
MRA graduates	357	934

Luke people deployed:
AEF 1/2: 57 AEF 9/10: 47
Others: 118

Vision essential to success

Lt. Col. Frank Knickerbocker

56th Communication Squadron commander

From Garrison Keillor's "Pretty Good Joke Book": "Computers will never completely replace humans. They may become capable of artificial intelligence, but they will never master real stupidity."

I love to work difficult technical problems. The essence of delivering solutions is finding easier or more effective ways to do fighter wing operations. There are more than 150 folks working with me who share this passion, and it is a human, spiritual pursuit. Let me share my thoughts.

A fighter wing is a great place to come to work. Every morning, symbols of our national power and our collective effort take to the sky in graceful rolls and thunderous roars — the sound of freedom. I never fail to gawk like a 4-year-old watching the takeoff. With every launch, I know there has been an exhaustive series of interrelated activities culminating in that event, each demanding our people's best efforts. The excellence we achieve in producing these results is a direct function of their commitment to support the common outcome. It's definitely a "vision" thing.

Vision is infinite — it has no limits. It is a human quality that will forever evade capture by algorithms or computers. No bureaucracy or process can describe it, but all will fail without it. When I was even younger and dumber than I am in my present pitiful condition, I concentrated exclusively on doing things the right way with great precision and attention to detail. Many failures, some successes, years and experiences later, I find the most

productive way to spend my time is sharing and comparing vision with those around me and those who work for me. The variety of perspectives never fails to show me new perspectives and greater alternatives — bottom line, better results. Now I spend a lot of time ensuring the folks around me understand my vision and I theirs. Oh yes, we still have to do things with great precision and attention to detail, but that activity will be misspent and wasted without the vision to see the direction ahead. In fact, imparting vision is a responsibility of leadership.

Just as I have my journey, I find those with whom I work are on their own journey, along many paths: professional, social, family, and most important, spiritual. Each person's journey in turn shapes their perception and their vision.

What I find fascinating is the ability of Air Force people, from each of these diverse backgrounds, to envision Air Force goals and find ways to achieve them. This common understanding illustrates the basic reasons I stay in the Air Force. We envision providing our nation the strength to defend freedom anywhere on the globe. We translate this very abstract concept to ordering our lives with resource drills, training, daycare, taxes, family separations and hundreds of daily inconveniences to bring this vision to reality.

Like me, other Air Force members need "that vision thing" to persist in the face of all our real world inconveniences. While we do what we must in the physical world, our commitment is essentially spiritual. Leaders provide the vision, and every aircraft launch affirms our success.

Civilian life may mean less cash

By Brian Slader

Former active duty Air Force

If you're thinking about getting out because you think your pay stinks, read on.

I recently separated from active duty to take on civilian life. I had many reasons for leaving after 13 years, but my pay was not an issue. I was a prior-enlisted lieutenant and was taking home enough to pay the bills and have a bit extra. My wife worked part time so we could afford even more "luxuries."

I took a civilian job and thought I was getting a pay raise. Based on the form I got from the Air Force every year, the Personal Statement of Military Compensation (PSMC), I thought I was going to be doing pretty good for myself.

And then my first civilian pay stub showed up.

"How can this be?" I looked at the stub in amazement. My paycheck was quite a bit less than what I had been pulling down on active duty. No increase, no raise. I was in a state of numbness and shock.

What had I done wrong? As an engineer, I thought I had the math down and was sure I would make more money.

Mistake No. 1: Pay periods. In the military, you get paid 24 times a year, or twice a month, as opposed to 26 times, or every two weeks, in the civilian world. For civilians, this means less per check,

of course, but you do get two extra paychecks per year. Now I wish bills could come on a two-week cycle and not a monthly cycle.

Mistake No. 2: Federal taxes, taxes, taxes, taxes. The benefits of tax-free basic allowance for housing and basic allowance for subsistence can't be emphasized enough, and the more you make, the bigger the impact. If you go over the \$60,000 mark, watch out. You may jump up to the higher tax bracket. My federal income taxes almost doubled going from military to civilian.

Mistake No. 3: Medicare, Social Security, state tax, local tax — all more out here in civilian life since your taxable income is a whole lot more without the BAH and BAS shelter.

Mistake No. 4: Health insurance. Now I knew this one would cost me, and I had it figured in, but I hope I stay healthy, since each time I visit the doctor or dentist it's going to cost me. The PSMC appears to overestimate this one, but depending on the size of your family, how many times you get sick or how bad your teeth are, it

may be right.

Mistake No. 5: Retirement plan and life insurance. I think I have a better retirement plan now, but I'm paying for it. Yes, I'm getting matching funds from my company, but that 5 percent

missing out of my check sure does hurt. The PSMC has you guess at what your retirement would be worth in the civilian world. It would vary on your rank, but a safe bet would be at least one month's base pay per year.

I don't blame the Air Force for making this

financial underestimate. I screwed up on my own and all the data was out there and available. I just failed to take it all in.

And there are other benefits, too, such as leave time, the commissary, the base gym and more.

If you're thinking about getting out, if pay is one of your major reasons, take another look.

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Brian Slader
Former active duty Air Force

Editorial information

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Present arms ...

Tech. Sgt. Kevin Dooms

Luke Honor Guard members, Airman 1st Class Patrick McManaman, Airman 1st Class Deepak Moosad, and Airman 1st Class Michael Kemeliotis perform reveille at a flag dedication March 1 at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Williams Gateway Airport, formally Williams Air Force Base in Mesa, Ariz. The Warfighter Training Research Division at Williams Gateway Airport is part of the Human Effectiveness Directorate under the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. The WTRD conducts research and development for warfighter training techniques and technologies.

AFAF campaign needs support

By Airman Kara Philp

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Thunderbolts can contribute to the Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign until March 29.

Contributors can designate any of four organizations their for donations to support.

The AFAF campaign helps sustain the Air Force Enlisted Men's, Widows' and Dependents' Home; the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund; the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation; and the Air Force Aid Society.

The campaign runs during a one-month window each year, and this year it began Feb. 25 and ends March 29.

"The Air Force Assistance Fund is a great cause and it's the one that gives all the money back to Air Force members," said Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander. "It shows we truly are an 'Air Force family.'"

The 2002 goal for the 56th Fighter Wing is \$67,309.

"Last year at Luke, Thunderbolts received \$367,006 in assistance provided by the Air Force Aid Society," said Capt. Connie Massey, 56th Mission Support Squadron section commander and AFAF campaign coordinator. "And we only contributed \$47,000. We need to give generously."

The Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund provides financial assistance to widows and widowers of Air Force officers. Its goal is to provide financial support and homes to members of the Air Force family who would otherwise have no place to live. It also supports the patients and families undergoing treatment in the Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas, bone marrow transplant program.

The indigent widows fund covers several other programs, including the Active Duty Surviving Spouse Program, the Dependent Parent Program, Active Duty Health Care Center Services Program, and Future Residency.

The Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the Air Force. The society is chartered to assist in relieving financial emergencies faced by active-duty members and their families.

Qualified members are given interest-free loans or grants during personal and family emergencies. Aid can be given for purposes such as food, rent, utilities, essential car repair, and certain medical and dental care expenses.

The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation cares for the spouses of deceased Air Force personnel of all ranks. It enables a widow or widower with limited financial resources to continue living in his or her own home and community and helps them to meet daily living needs.

The Air Force Enlisted Men's, Widows' and Dependents' Home was created to care for widows, widowers and dependents of Air Force enlisted personnel. These spouses are often left without survivor benefits and don't qualify for Social Security until they reach age 62.

"It's important because, as military members, we can understand the unique circumstances that surround a career in the military," said Senior Airman Rachel Anderson, 56th Mission Support Squadron Military Personnel Flight readiness technician. "We can support each other and know that even when the civilian population is not there to support us, we can count on our Air Force family to be there."

For more information, call Captain Massey at (623) 856-7835.

Thunderbolt Instructor Pilot of the Week

Name: Maj. Paul "Lucky" Quirion, 309th Fighter Squadron

Duty title: Weapons officer

Hometown: Newington, Conn.

Family: Wife, Leslie and son, John Paul, 3

Education: Bachelor's degree in political science from University of Connecticut and master's degree in human resource management from Troy State University

Time in service: 13 years

Previous assignments: Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany; Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea; Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.; MacDill AFB, Fla.; and Sheppard AFB, Texas

Goals: To be the best husband, dad and instructor possible

Hobbies, off-duty interests: Ice hockey, hiking, biking, spending time with family

Inspirations: My family and friends

Commander's comments: "Lucky was recently selected by a graduating F-16 student class as the best IP in the squadron," said Lt. Col. Neal Carbaugh, 309th FS commander. "Further, he was previously selected as the Daedalian Fighter Pilot of the Year for the entire base. That makes him the best of the best and a role model for the rest of us to aspire to."



Quirion

News Briefs

Survey ends

Today is the last day the 2002 Chief of Staff Organizational Climate survey is available online. The survey is designed to gauge perceptions about leadership, communication, supervision, training, job satisfaction and other aspects of Air Force organizations. The survey can be taken online at www.csafsurvey.af.mil.

Protocol position

The 56th Fighter Wing is looking for staff and technical sergeants interested in filling a one year special-duty assignment in protocol. For more information, call the protocol office at (623) 856-5604.

Promotion list

Air Force officials will release the senior master sergeant promotion list March 20. Selected personnel will be notified that day, and the entire list will be posted on the Air Force Personnel Center's Web site March 22.

Civilian appraisal cycle

The performance appraisal cycle for civilian employees ends March 31. Supervisors who depart an organization after Jan. 1 must accomplish a performance rating for all civilian employees under their supervision. The appraisal should be completed, signed and left with the organization's quality control monitor for processing. If you have supervised the employees less than 90 days, contact the civilian personnel flight at (623) 856-7762 for more information.

AFSA meeting

The Air Force Sergeants Association Cactus Eagle Chapter 1260 will meet Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the Desert Star Enlisted Club Top-3 Lounge. The auxiliary will meet at 7 p.m. at the enlisted club. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Dale Rupright at (623) 856-3494.

Travel office

Alamo Travel Group will become the new commercial travel office at Luke April 15. Personnel planning to travel between April 13 and 21 need to pick up tickets no later than April 11 at 1 p.m. For more information, call Barbara Williams at (623) 856-7035.

RMO demonstration

The 56th Range Management Office invites Team Luke to bring their brown bag lunches to a presentation March 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Bldg. 986. The Explosive Ordnance Disposal section will demonstrate the robot they use to collect munitions from the Barry M. Goldwater Range. Call (623) 856-8520 for reservations.

Air Force Assistance Fund

The Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign is under way and will continue through March 29. The fund supports the Air Force Enlisted Men's, Widows' and Dependents' Home; the Air Force Village Indigent Widows' Fund; the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation; and the Air Force Aid Society. Individuals interested in contributing to the fund need to see their unit project officer or unit key worker.

Pets

If pets are shipped overseas, rabies vaccinations must be more than 30 days but less than one year old at the time the pet arrives in that country. If the pet has received a three-year rabies vaccination and the vaccination is more than a year old, the pet will need to be revaccinated. For more information, call (623) 856-6354.

Housing seminar

The 56th Civil Engineering Squadron Housing Office is sponsoring home-buying seminars March 13 at 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Bldg. 1150, room 1039. The seminars will highlight ways to buy and resell homes. For more information or for reservations, call Irene Bateman at (623) 856-3008.

21st FS wins Frank Luke Award

By Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Roady

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The 21st Fighter Squadron recently received the Arizona American Legion's Frank Luke Award a fourth time in five years.

The squadron also won the award in 1997 and 1998, making them the first back-to-back winners since 1938, and again in 1999, making them the only squadron to take home the trophy three years in a row.

"Winning the 2001 Frank Luke Trophy is an incredible accomplishment for the Gamblers," said Lt. Col. Mark Warner, 21st FS commander. "The challenge of competing against the other fine fighter squadrons of the 56th Fighter Wing, and being so fortunate as to come out on top, is a testament to the hard work and dedication of both our pilots and maintainers. I could not be more proud of their victory."

Each year the American Legion of Arizona presents the award to the wing's top fighter squadron based on overall placement in the spring and fall Turkey Shoot competitions. The semiannual contests evaluate each of Luke's eight flying squadrons in the areas of operations, tactics, and maintenance.

Lt. Col. Costa Tzavaras, 21st FS operations officer, said all three areas were critical.

"From superior aircraft maintenance, to excellent weapons loading, to sound weapons delivery procedures and techniques, it takes an entire team to earn an award such as this. Nothing can be taken for granted when you compete among the high caliber of Airmen stationed at Luke," Colonel Tzavaras said.



Airman Kara Philp

Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander (center right) presents the Arizona American Legion's Frank Luke Award to Lt. Col. Mark Warner, 21st Fighter Squadron commander, as 1st Lt. Corey Jewell and Lt. Col. Costa Tzavaras look on. Each year the American Legion of Arizona presents the award to the wing's top fighter squadron based on the results of the fall and spring Turkey Shoot competitions. The semiannual contests evaluate each of Luke's eight flying squadrons in the areas of operations, tactics and maintenance.

Hall of fame, 56th FW honor Frank Luke Jr.



Tech. Sgt. Mark Davis

Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, accepts a drawing of Lt. Frank Luke Jr. from Ron Kaplan, deputy director of the National Aviation Hall of Fame, Monday. The drawing was done by artist Milton Caniff.

By Tech. Sgt. Alan S. Lewis

56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

The National Aviation Hall of Fame presented Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, with a plaque and drawing of Lt. Frank Luke Jr. Monday in the wing conference room.

The drawing by Milton Caniff was made in 1975 when Lieutenant Luke was enshrined in the hall of fame.

The picture and plaque, along with many others, adorned the walls of the hall of fame until 1987 when it was placed in storage.

"We wanted to find homes for these drawings," said Ron Kaplan, National Aviation Hall of Fame deputy director. "Last November while I was at Luke, I spoke with General Sargeant about

the drawing and we decided to bring it back to Lieutenant Luke's hometown."

The drawing will be displayed in the wing headquarters after refurbishing by the 56th Communications Squadron's Visual Information Flight.

"We have done a lot in recent years to capture our heritage," said General Sargeant. "We are bringing a vital part of that history back home to Luke Air Force Base."

On hand for the presentation were several distinguished guests:

Jack Purdy, NAHF member, World War II ace and enshrinee; Ken Dahlberg, NAHF member, World War II ace and nominee for enshrinement; Joe Forester, World War II ace; Dr. Harry Robertson, NAHF member and nominee for enshrinement; and Sergei Sikorsky, son of enshrinee Igor Sikorsky.

"We are bringing a vital part of that history back home to Luke Air Force Base."

Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant
56th Fighter Wing commander

Wing Warrior

This column recognizes Team Luke members' contributions to wartime readiness in the tradition of 2nd Lt. Frank Luke.

Name: Master Sgt. John Garcia, 56th Operations Group Quality Assurance
Duty title: Production support NCO in charge
Hometown: San Antonio
Time in service: 19 years
Family: Wife, Sharon; daughter, Jennifer; and son, Sean

Inspirations: The outstanding flightline and backshop personnel that 'make it happen' every day here at Luke.
Goals: To be a great father and husband and enjoy every day as much as possible

Famous last words: "Do the right thing; it will gratify some people and astonish the rest."

Self-description: A dedicated, fun-loving family man

Commander's comments: "Sergeant Garcia is a key contributor to Luke's maintenance success," said Col. Steven Searcy, 56th Operations Group commander. "His technical expertise and professionalism were highlighted by the AETC IG's team when he augmented them on several ORIs. The IG team as well as the units he inspected commented on his appearance and professionalism."



Garcia

Luke's Spirit

Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, uses this column to recognize Team Luke members' outstanding customer service.

Name: Capt. Connie Massey, 56th Mission Support Squadron
Duty title: Relocations and employments chief
Hometown: Topeka, Kan.
Time in service: 12 years
Family: My two cats

Goals: To be a success in every job I'm assigned

Greatest feat: Getting my commission

Famous last words: "I always have time for you."

Hobbies, off-duty interests: Painting with water-color and colored pencils and going to movies

Strengths: My reliability and work ethic

Hobbies and off-duty interests: Painting with water color and colored pencils and going to the movies

Commander's comments: "Captain Massey superbly ensured 52 U.S. Air Force Academy cadets had a place to stay during a recent trip to the valley," said General Sargeant. "She's also the 56th Fighter Wing's point of contact for this year's Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign and is doing a super job. She's a real asset to our Thunderbolt community."



Massey

Award

Continued from Page 1

Additionally, Mr. Hall oversaw the preparation, buildup, and deployment of temporary mission support kits and the maintenance of permanent mission support kits containing 200 line items valued at \$23 million.

Ms. Snider loaded five automated programs to pinpoint problem areas with base requisition and took action to correct discrepancies, which led to 3,400 error-free depot weapon support stock replenishment shipments.

Ms. Snider worked supply listings to ensure all non-stock listed or disposal items were accurately researched, which eliminated 60 obsolete records. She re-ordered suitable substitutes to ensure optimum support.

“Ms. Kim Snider is an individual who can always be relied upon to give 110 percent,” said Chief Master Sgt. Constantino Theoharatos, 56th SUPS weapons support superintendent. “She is the motivating force that contributed in seeing significant improvements in the stock control section of base supply. Ms.

Snider is well-deserving of this recognition. Although we operate as a team, her efforts do stand out. To put it in simple terms, Ms. Snider makes sure the right parts are available at the right time to keep our aircraft flying to produce and train the world’s best fighter pilots.”

Additionally, Ms. Snider revamped the requisition cancellation program in four months, which reduced customer requirements with depot cancellations from 250 to ten.

Airman Nelson contributed to the execution of more than 4,000 combat sorties while deployed to the 363rd Air Expeditionary Wing, Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in support of Operation Southern Watch.

Airman Nelson also issued more than 700,000 gallons of aviation fuel to 720 aircraft with average initial response time of 14 minutes.

“Senior Airman Nelson is a wealth of knowledge in our fuels laboratory,” said Senior Master Sgt. Douglas Thomas, 56th SUPS operations superintendent. “His experience was used to manage area laboratory samples in our most demanding deployment locations. His vast knowledge of fuels

quality control surpasses that of most seasoned NCOs. He’s humble, professional and will represent our wing well at the Air Force competition.”

Additionally, Airman Nelson identified and applied corrective actions to 25 mobile refueling units, which led to a 95-percent in-service rate.

At 80 years old, Mr. Bateman is a permanent fixture at the 56th SUPS. His profile is on the 2001 edition of the Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants coin.

He performed 246 refueling operations, which involved fuel support to aircraft on temporary duty status at Luke participating in dissimilar aircraft training exercises and ensured zero delays attributed to fuel support.

“Mr. Bateman is truly a living legend,” Sergeant Thomas said. “He routinely out-works young men and women one-fourth his age. He inspires us all with both his wit and his work ethic and motivates us all to work just a little harder. He is truly a pleasure to work with and deserving of this award ... Air Force level next!”

Mr. Bateman has more than 45 years of flightline experience as a mobile refueling unit operator without a single mishap.

Call

Continued from Page 1

challenge anybody without a line badge on the flightline. We’re also going to continue exercising to prepare for contingencies.”

Along with a busy local flying schedule, Thunderbolts will continue supporting missions outside AEF, General Sargeant said, “and General (Donald) Cook (AETC commander) is promising even more AETC deployments.”

However, General Sargeant had good news for security forces augmentees.

“We’ll be needing the READY troops less often as the gates are being reduced,” he said.

General Sargeant asked members to make Luke look sharp by helping with base clean-up and by remembering customs and courtesies.

“We’re expecting a number of distinguished visitors in March through May,” General Sargeant said. “There have been some problems on other bases with Airmen failing to render proper salutes or greetings, but I know that won’t be a problem here.”

Staff Sgt. trades stripes for bars

By Airman 1st Class Susan McQueary
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A staff sergeant with the 362nd Training Squadron OL-E was recently accepted to attend Officer Training School.

Staff Sgt. Ken Fravor, F-16 Mission Ready Airman master instructor, was one of 261 Air Force enlisted members chosen for OTS at the Jan. 8 board.

“I applied to OTS because I wanted to use my education to further my career and also share my maintenance experiences with those who will be working for me,” Sergeant Fravor said.

Sergeant Fravor is originally from Toledo, Ohio, and has been in the Air Force nine and one half years. His previous assignments include Incirlik Air Base, Turkey and Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

After completing OTS, Sergeant Fravor will be an aircraft maintenance officer; however, he does not know where his assignment will be.

Sergeant Fravor earned his bachelor’s degree in occupational education from Wayland Baptist University, Texas.

“As a ‘C’ average student in high school, I cannot believe I was selected to OTS,” Sergeant Fravor said.

His goal is to successfully make it through OTS and his leadership philosophy is to be humble.

“Staff Sgt. Fravor possesses all the qualities of an outstanding F-16 maintainer,” said Senior Master Sgt. Carl Wilder, 362nd TRS OL-E chief. “He will naturally blend them into his future as a maintenance officer. All maintainers are bettered for his chosen career path.”

For more information concerning OTS and the application process, active-duty members can call the education office at (623) 856-7722.

Online pay system available

By Airman 1st Class Susan McQueary
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Military personnel can now review pay statements online using Employee/Member Self Service, an automated system that puts personnel in control of processing discretionary pay data items without using paper forms.

Members can visit <https://emss.dfas.mil/emss.htm>, but will need to establish a password and personal identification number to access the E/MSS system.

E/MSS also eliminates the need to write letters or fill out forms by allowing personnel to make changes immediately using technology. E/MSS can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week to change or review current information or check the most recent pay statement.

On the Web site, members can access and change federal tax, direct deposit, PIN number and the Thrift Savings Plan information. Additionally, the system allows members to turn off the hard copy of the pay statement that is received through distribution.

“The use of this technology is very convenient for military members,” said 1st Lt. Robert Heim, 56th Comptroller Squadron Financial Services officer. “This technology can save Luke members valuable time by alleviating an unnecessary trip to the finance office when they can get their questions answered online or over the phone.”

Changes can be checked by accessing E/MSS during the next calendar month or by contacting a customer service representative.

“E/MSS takes advantage of existing technology and is paperless, so you will not receive any written confirmation,” Lieutenant Heim said. “However, E/MSS displays a ‘no later than’ date when your change is accepted. Any change you make to your account should be posted no later than this date.”

Civilians, Marines, reservists and retirees can verify changes have been made three to seven days afterward, or by contacting a customer service representative.

Questions concerning specific pay account

information should be directed to the servicing payroll office or to a customer service representative as follows:

- Civilian employees: (623) 856-6034
- Military retirees: (800) 321-1080
- Annuitants: (800) 435-3396
- Reserve: (623) 856-5311
- Active-duty members: (623) 856-7028 or (623) 856-7094

Additionally, active-duty members and reservists can use the Pay-Call line to obtain pay information such as amount and account number of direct deposit, allotment information, tax information and garnishment data. A PIN number is required for this use and upon calling, members may establish one with the touch-tone service. A copy of the latest LES is needed.

The Pay-Call line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (800) 755-7413 or DSN 926-1281.

“The real advantage to using this service is that it allows each member to get immediate access to their pay information without using a computer or having to go to the local finance office,” said Tech. Sgt. Alexander Lathrop, 56th CPTS deputy disbursing officer. “The real convenience of this service is that it allows personnel when deployed, TDY or on leave to get pay information and not have to rely on the bimonthly pay statements to be received to verify their pay or stop by the local finance office.”

Due to Privacy Act of 1974 requirements, the only way to obtain specific pay information is to visit the local finance office.

“Finance personnel are not allowed to provide specific pay information through telephone inquiries or to anyone other than the military member,” Sergeant Lathrop said. “Also, pay statements are printed by a centralized contractor and sent to each base for distribution, which sometimes means that personnel might not receive them through the various channels until the day prior or the actual date of the military pay day. This phone service really provides members with the best opportunity to get the pay information whenever they need it, without having to leave their work centers and save time for both themselves and finance customer service personnel.”

Flight Commander of the Year

63rd FS honors Italian officer

By Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Roady
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An Italian air force officer was recently named the 63rd Fighter Squadron's Flight Commander of the Year. Maj. Giampaolo Goattin is the first foreign flight commander to receive the award.

"Major Goattin is one of the finest officers I have ever worked with," said Lt. Col. Mike Stuart, 63rd Fighter Squadron commander. "He was the obvious choice for flight commander of the year. Foreign officers usually have a tougher road to follow due to the fact they are not English-speaking and they are usually not trained in the F-16. Major Goattin overcame both of these obstacles in heroic fashion. His complete dedication and genuine concern for others mark him for much greater achievements."

Major Goattin, who trained at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, in 1991, has had a decade — and an American wife — to help him master the English language. He has had several U.S. training courses to help him master the F-16.

After the initial six-month F-16 course and flight leadership upgrade training, Major Goattin attended and graduated from the instructor course in 2000. He served at Luke as an instructor pilot and

scheduler for five months before he became a flight commander.

"I was D-flight commander during the Organizational Readiness Inspection," Major Goattin said, "but it was only a fill-in position. I became A-flight commander in May 2001."

In February, Major Goattin became 63rd FS assistant director of operations, but he downplays the scope of his contributions to the unit.

"I think I got the (Flight Commander of the Year) award because of a convergent factor, just a series of smaller positive achievements," Major Goattin said. "It was really my students who were outstanding. All the men in my flight graduated, and one was even the distinguished graduate."

Major Goattin, who has been at Luke since November 1999, previously flew Fiat G-91 and AM-X reconnaissance aircraft. He will return in April to convergence training at the 32nd Wing in Italy, where he served between 1996 and 1999.



Goattin

Luke Days 2002

March 23 & 24
at Luke Air Force Base
9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on March 23
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Free to all

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for more information.



All live with aftermath of tough decisions

Commentary by
Col. James Moschgat
12th Operations Group commander

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — A cat-like mist crept over the Cambridge American Cemetery 60 miles north of London as steady rain from a leaden sky turned nearly 4,000 crosses and Stars of David a glistening white.

I stood at rigid attention watching over 100 white-haired former B-17 crewmen place a wreath before a memorial bearing the names of 5,126 missing American servicemen from WWII, most of them young Airmen who vanished forever in the skies over Europe. As the last strains of Taps faded into the nearby wood, the veterans and their families drifted off, lost in their memories, to visit comrades who had rested on foreign soil for more than 45 years.

I quietly followed, feeling somewhat like an intruder among this group of aged warriors walking on hallowed ground. But soon I too was lost in thought, for each cross told a story: here a young lieutenant of 19 from New York who died on D-Day, there a sergeant from Mississippi who met his end on Christmas Day 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge.

The sight of an elderly gentlemen on his knees, shaking and sobbing uncontrollably, quickly brought me back to reality. Rushing to his side, I knelt beside him on the wet grass and asked if he needed help, but words failed him. For what seemed like an eternity he gasped for breath as tears streamed from his red-rimmed eyes. Finally, with a shaking hand he pointed at the crosses before him. Seven of them abreast bore a remarkable similarity — the same

squadron designation and the same date of death.

Clutching the sleeve of my service dress uniform, Jake (not his real name) looked into my eyes and, in a tortured whisper said, “Those guys are here because of me.”

Jake continued without being asked, although the words came painfully. Just 20 years old, he’d commanded a B-17 and a crew of 10 men, really boys, back in the winter of 1944. On Mission 15, their aircraft had been badly damaged by flak over Germany, two men were severely wounded and, with two engines shot out, their aircraft strayed from the formation and lost altitude, making them easy prey for Luftwaffe fighters. The crew fought valiantly, but their aircraft took even more punishment from swarming Messerschmitts before Jake dove through a cloud deck and evaded further attack. After what seemed a lifetime, the English Channel came into view.

However, death still stalked Jake and his crew. Losing altitude, he ordered them to throw everything overboard to lighten the load and stem their steady descent. The crew began to excitedly discuss their options. They could ditch in the Channel, but it was winter and most, especially the wounded, would surely perish in the icy water.

Someone suggested they turn around and bail out over the continent, but uncertain of their location they risked capture. Jake also knew the wounded men would not survive a parachute descent. Should they continue to their base? Their shuddering, screeching ship reminded them they might not even make it to England.

Finally a gunner asked Jake,

“Skipper, what do you think we should do?” A silence filled each crewman’s headset while the 20-year-old pilot pondered his options and tried to shrug off the heavy invisible weight that rested on his shoulders.

Though their aircraft was a total loss, he couldn’t risk the lives of his wounded men. Taking stock of the situation Jake noticed their fall toward the gray water had stopped, the controls were solid, and two engines were purring.

“Men,” he told his crew, “stick with me. I can get her back.” Sensing his confidence and trusting their young leader’s judgment, each chimed in, “OK, Skip, we’re with you. Take us home.”

Jake nursed his crippled Fort to the nearest airfield and set up for an approach to the longest runway. Just as it looked like they’d make the tarmac, luck abandoned the crew. A strained third engine caught fire and failed, causing the faltering bird to plummet earthward. Seven airmen died in the fiery crash, but Jake and two others survived. Miraculously, one of the wounded men was among the living.

Like a line from the movie “Saving Private Ryan,” Jake’s next words pulled my vision into the present. Kneeling there, his thin, rain-matted hair hanging in tear-stained eyes, Jake sighed, “Not a day has passed that I haven’t thought of them.”

Only then did I sense the burden he carried. As a young Airman, his decision had forever altered countless lives and left an indelible brand on his own soul.

As I helped Jake back to the waiting bus I drummed up the courage to ask him about his ill-fated decision over the Channel. If he could relive that mission in 1944,

I inquired, what would he do differently? His answer surprised me, “Nothing,” Jake said. “You see,” Jake said, “the Air Corps trained me to make decisions and I think I made the right one. It’s just living with the consequences that’s tough.”

I’ve pondered his words many times over the years and Jake was right. The Air Force spends a lot of time teaching each of us to make decisions, but how well do we prepare ourselves to deal with the burden and consequences of decision-making? Granted, few of us will ever face a combat decision like Jake’s, but most of us will make decisions with life-altering, career-changing consequences.

Think about it. As a supervisor, have you made a recommendation to approve or disapprove an Airman’s request for a Stop-Loss waiver? When it came time to pick someone to fill a contingency tasking to a remote, combat location, were you the one who made the call? Perhaps you were burdened by a decision to administer punishment to a young Airman that would affect not only the military member, but his family as well. Those are all tough calls.

Later I asked Jake how he dealt with the burden of his decision, and here’s what he told me. It’s not an all-inclusive list, but it’s a good starting point.

First, make decisions keeping your mission and your people foremost in mind. Never decide an issue based on personal desires or self-serving interests. To do so is a violation of the trust placed in you as a leader and supervisor. Putting your mission and people first will leave you with a clear conscious.

———— *See Tough decisions, Page 9*

Tough decisions

Continued from Page 8

Second, train hard and train well. Know your business cold and be prepared to act. Making a poor decision due to ignorance or lack of preparation is unforgivable. Likewise, don't let a lack of experience paralyze you. Indecisiveness is generally more harmful than a hasty, but tempered move.

Third, learn from your mistakes, but don't beat yourself up using "20-20 hindsight." Usually our decision-making improves with experience. That's life. Criticizing yourself based on information you gleaned after the fact is unreasonable and unhealthy.

Fourth, don't live with a bad decision just because you're the one who made it. If new facts arise and there's time for a midcourse correction, take it. There's no glory in following the wrong course just to save your pride. On the other hand, if you're confident in the decision, stay the course. Zig-

zagging all over the decision-making map can have disastrous results.

Fifth, prepare yourself morally and spiritually for decision-making. It's a proven fact that physical well-being contributes to good decisions. Likewise, being well rested promotes mental acuity and helps buffer the strain of decision-making. Getting adequate daily rest and periodically taking leave rejuvenates a soul.

What of the soul? Have you considered the moral consequences of your decisions? If not, now might be the time to ready yourself. Jake found solace by turning to a source of wisdom greater than his own. Reading the Bible, consulting with a friend or talking to a chaplain helped when faced with hard decisions and their aftermath.

Decision-making is a part of life, especially in the military. Our profession may call upon each of us to make life and death decisions at a moment's notice. Jake's example proves fate doesn't necessarily hand tough decisions to those with the highest rank, the most experience or the right age.

Jake was ready, made the tough call, and lived a lifetime with a clear conscience. I hope his five simple rules will help you prepare to do the same.

AF partnership working to develop telemedicine

By Tech. Sgt. Scott Elliott
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Hard-to-get consultations with medical specialists may soon be available via telephone.

The Air Force has teamed up with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in an \$8.5 million effort to develop new technology for telemedicine. Eventually, digital imagery will allow specialists to read X-rays and other types of medical information over telephone lines.

It is especially important for the Air Force to be on the leading edge of telemedicine technology because of the mobile nature of military service, and the shortage of radiologists and other specialists, said Capt. Robert Hardie, from the Air Force surgeon general's office.

"The primary lesson learned from deployments (to Desert Storm, Somalia and Bosnia) is that we cannot deploy systems without the proper training and

expertise," Captain Hardie said.

One of the biggest challenges, he said, is that successful telemedicine requires compatible technology on both the sending and receiving ends.

"Without this in place, we run the risk of deploying systems that may never be used," he said. "This directive is aimed at building a medical teleconsulting system that can link expert pathologists, radiologists and dermatologists with military facilities around the world that don't have (those) specialists on-site," Captain Hardie said.

Military medical services are expected to lose half of their radiologists during the next three years, he said.

The Army is also looking into improving telemedicine, Captain Hardie said.

"Our missions are different, (but) we're striving toward the same goal — leveraging medical care, specifically in rural and under-served areas," he said. "Telemedicine is an enabler to this."

Baseball fans, teams honor Thunderbolts

By Airman Kara Philp
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Baseball teams and fans honored Thunderbolts Feb. 28 with Luke Day at the Peoria Sports Complex spring training Welcome Back Charity Game.

Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, kicked off the game by throwing the first pitch.

The Seattle Mariners, San Diego Padres, a sold out crowd and the Peoria Diamond Club recognized members of the Armed Forces “who are called to duty” as part of the preseason-fundraiser game that took place the day before the official opening of the Cactus League season.

Before the game, 2nd Lt. Sarah Droz, Master Sgt. Dene Bimber, Staff Sgt. Jason Schieble and Senior Airman Jaime Gomez, all 56th Security Forces Squadron members, were welcomed home from their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While the squadron members and their families were on the field, all Thunderbolts stood for recognition as the crowd applauded in appreciation for their military service.

The Luke honor guard presented the colors as part of the opening ceremony and Chief Master Sgt. Sandra Harris, 56th Operations Group maintenance manager, sang the National Anthem.

“When the National Anthem plays, you think of your country,” said Bruce Bochy, San Diego Padres manager. “That’s where the association between baseball and America’s military go hand in hand.”

The Diamond Club, a not-for-profit organization, supports area youth programs. The money raised during the charity game is distributed back into the community through a grant program.

These grants are available to members of the local community including Luke.

“We raise money associated with the charity game in several ways,” said Rose Hardenburger, Peoria Diamond Club blue shirt member and volunteer. “First, the San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners donated the game to us. We owe them big-time. Without the game, we have no event.”

Additionally, the City of Peoria allows the Peoria Diamond Club to use the stadium. The Diamond Club gets to keep all the parking revenue, program sales for that day and 100 percent of the ticket sales. Many local businesses sponsored the game which, along with a percentage of the concessions sold and souvenirs purchased at the gift shop, brought in additional funds for the children’s charities.

“It seemed a perfect time to dedicate a baseball game to the men and women of Luke,” Ms. Hardenburger said. “I thought inviting Luke to be honored would highlight the contributions of our military and the benefit of having Luke Air Force Base as our neighbor. I wanted to highlight Luke’s important role in the ‘neighborhood.’”

Many Thunderbolts and fans in attendance participated in various drawings and raffles including a 50/50 raffle, which raised an additional \$1,381 for children while one ticket holder went home with the other \$1,381.

Besides the 50/50 cash, prizes included vacation packages, golf shirts, rounds of golf, overnight stays and dinners for two.

The fans were reminded not only of Luke’s support to the country, but the baseball teams’ support as well.



Master Sgt. Michael Burns

Brig. Gen. Steve Sargeant, 56th Fighter Wing commander, winds up to throw out the first pitch at the Welcome Back Charity Game Feb. 28 at Peoria Sports Complex.

“Spring training is part of us being role models, Mr. Bochy said. “Being aware of the needs of the community makes the players feel good. It’s a chance to give back. Any time we can do anything, we’ll do it. We enjoy it.”

Padres team members spoke on the importance of the military and the military’s connection with baseball.

“Giving the military their due creates patriotism,” said Andy Shibilo, San Diego Padres pitcher. “They (military) should be honored before us. Having them here creates more interest and ex-

citement —100 percent patriotism to pro-baseball and the military. It’s a great thing for everyone involved.”

This year, the diamond club charity game raised more than \$80,000.

“The results of the charity game this year are significant for one really big reason — the participation and support of Luke Air Force Base,” Ms. Hardenburger said. “This is a big home run for children’s charities.”

For more information on grants for non-profit youth groups, visit www.peoriadiamondclub.org.



Officials pleased with first TSP window results

Thousands enroll in Thrift Savings Plan

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — Nearly 65,000 Air Force active, Reserve and Guard members enrolled in the Uniformed Services Thrift Savings Plan's first open season.

Air Force officials are pleased with the number of people who enrolled and expect more to participate in future open seasons as familiarity with the plan increases, said Maj. Jeff Keef, Air Force military estate and special pays policy chief at the Pentagon.

People who missed the initial open season will have chances to enroll in future open seasons. The next is May 15 through July 31, followed by another, Nov. 15 through Jan. 31. Major Keef said this cycle will repeat annually and coincides with open seasons for all federal employees.

The plan, much like a 401(k) in the private sector, allows people to take advantage of several benefits.

“The TSP offers military members the potential to supplement military retirement significantly and also reduce current taxes by contributing from pre-tax dollars and watching tax-deferred earnings accumulate,” Major Keef said. “It’s also convenient. Enrollment and account management can be done from your desktop computer.”

Major Keef added that contributing to the plan is painless, with money going directly to TSP accounts through payroll deduction.

Participants who enrolled before the end of December and whose first contributions went to TSP from their end-of-month January pay should have received account letters with personal identification numbers by the end of February.

Once people have their PINs, accounts can be accessed on the TSP Web site. Major Keef said, people can make decisions as to how their future contributions are allocated among the five TSP funds. Until allocations are made, all contributions are sent to the G Fund.

Using either the same Web site or ThriftLine, people can also make an

interfund transfer to redistribute money that initially went to the G Fund or that may be in any of the funds at later time.

The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board provides the following fund information.

Government Securities Investment Fund: The G Fund consists exclusively of investments in short-term, nonmarketable U.S. Treasury securities specially issued to the TSP. These investments earn interest at a rate that is equal, by law, to the average rate of return on outstanding U.S. Treasury marketable securities with four or more years to maturity.

Fixed Income Index Investment Fund: The F Fund is the TSP's bond market fund. The objective is to match as closely as possible the returns of the Lehman Brothers U.S. Aggregate index, an index that represents the U.S. government, mortgage-backed, corporate, and foreign government securities sectors of the fixed-income securities market. It tracks the overall performance of the U.S. bond market.

Common Stock Index Investment

Fund: The C Fund is the TSP's large company U.S. stock fund. It is invested primarily in shares of the Barclays Equity Index Fund, a comingled stock index fund that tracks the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index.

Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment Fund: The S Fund is the TSP's medium and small company stock fund. The objective of the S Fund is to track the returns of the Wilshire 4500 stock index, which includes those U.S. stocks that are not found in the S&P 500 index.

International Stock Index Investment Fund: The I Fund is the TSP's international stock index fund. The objective of the I Fund is to track the returns of the Morgan Stanley Capital International Europe, Australasia and the Far East stock index.

Each month the TSP board publishes a fact sheet, “G, F, C, S and I Fund Monthly Returns,” available on the Web site. The fact sheet contains the monthly returns for each of the TSP funds.

More information is posted on the TSP Web site, <http://www.tsp.gov>.





Master Sgt. Michael Burns, photographer, zooms in on flightline activity.



Master Sgt. Michael Burns
Tech. Sgt. Leroy Lefiti, videographer, tapes 2nd Lt. Lawrence Yazzie, flight commander, for a documentary.

Clearer vision:

56th Communications Squadron Visual Information helps Thunderbolts better see the world around them

By Tech. Sgt. Rebecca Roady
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

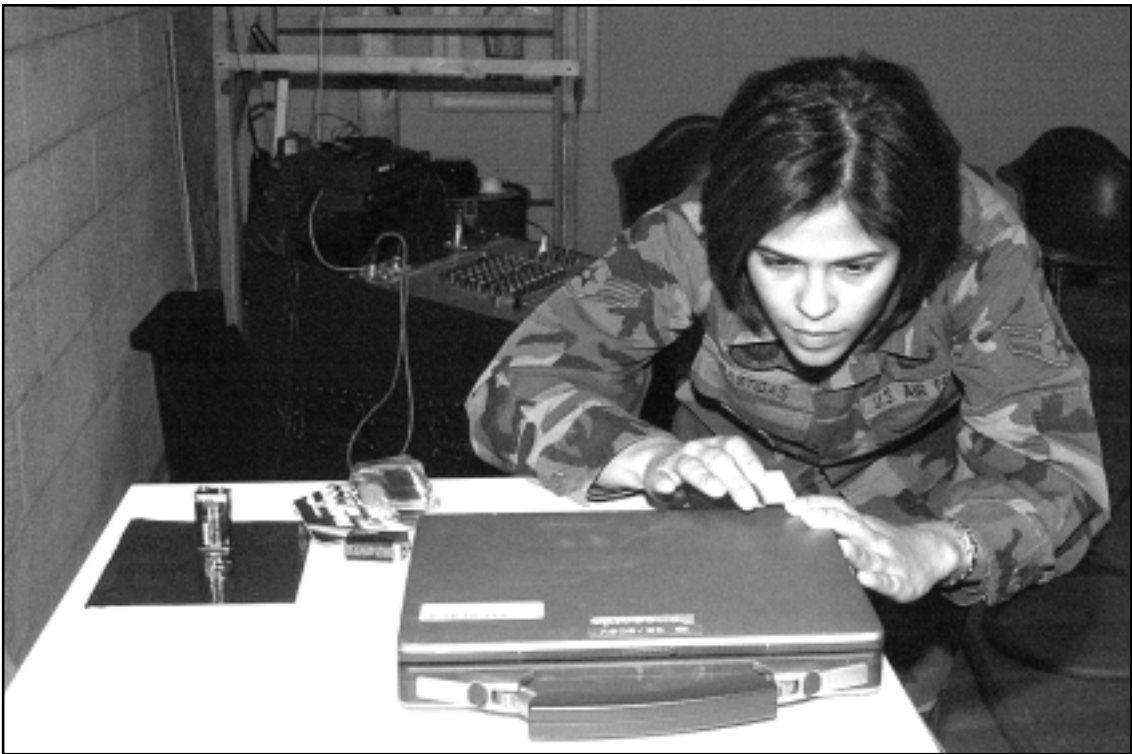
Members of the 56th Communications Squadron Visual Information flight are seldom on the easy end of lenses, screens or microphones.

The photographers, videographers and graphic artists at Luke “work long, unpredictable hours,” said Capt. Paul Hamel, VI flight commander, “to cover all the duty day, after-hours and sporting activities on and off-base.”

VI Airmen also travel frequently to document exercises and operations in which other Luke organizations participate.

“Our visual information shop responds immediately to mission need, from dispatching the alert photographer and videographer, to giving that graphic design just the right flare,” said Lt. Col. Frank Knickerbocker, 56th CS commander. “It’s work that requires rigorous military discipline combined with artistry and craftsmanship. Our folks do it as well as it can be done, anywhere.”

The shop is currently manned at only 70 percent and looking for artistic Airmen interested in cross-training. Anyone interested in joining the Luke VI team should assemble a portfolio of representative work and contact Ms. Carole Stoll, base VI manager, for an interview at (623) 856-7030.



Airman First Class Julie Simmons
Airman First Class Vanessa Bastidas, graphics technician, sets up equipment in the base theater for a commander’s call.



Staff Sgt. Aaron Marcus
Staff Sgt. Christopher Mathews, photographer, assesses a possible shot.



Master Sgt. Michael Burns
Staff Sgt. Michael May, graphics technician, prints a check for a Chief’s Group presentation.



Movies

Movies begin at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Cost is \$3 per adult and \$1.50 for children 11 and under. For more information or for a movie schedule, e-mail lukeafbtheater@yahoo.com



Friday

“A Walk to Remember” (PG)
Stars Shane West, Mandy Moore, Peter Coyote, Daryl Hannah and Lauren German.
Landon Carter hung with the in-crowd who took pleasure in making fun of anyone who didn’t meet their standards and often taunted Jamie Sullivan about her plain clothes and solitary ways. Landon and his crowd ruled the school, but it was a reign that would soon be over when school ended and life began, whether they realized it or not.
One night a prank that he and his buddies set up for a laugh goes terribly wrong and lands a kid in the hospital. Landon is given a punishment, which also happens to throw him into close contact with Jamie.
Soon Landon finds himself falling in love with this outwardly plain girl who possesses a passion for life he never imagined possible.
Being together will test the power of love and faith to transform a life into something worth living. *(100 minutes)*



Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m.
“Black Hawk Down: (R)
Stars Josh Hartnett, Eric Bana, Ewan McGregor, Tom Sizemore and Sam Shepard.
“Black Hawk Down” takes place in 1993 when the U.S. sent special forces into Somalia to bring food and humanitarian aid to the starving population. Using Black Hawk helicopters to lower the soldiers onto the ground, an attack by Somalian forces brings two of the helicopters down immediately. From there, the U.S. soldiers must struggle to regain their balance while enduring heavy gunfire. *(144 minutes)*



Sunday at 6 p.m.
“A Beautiful Mind” (PG-13)
Stars Russell Crowe, Ed Harris, Jennifer Connelly, Christopher Plummer and Paul Bettany.
From the heights of notoriety to the depths of

depravity, John Forbes Nash, Jr. experiences it all. A mathematical genius, he made an astonishing discovery early in his career and stood on the brink of international acclaim. But the handsome and arrogant Nash soon found himself on a painful and harrowing journey of self-discovery once he was diagnosed with schizophrenia. After many years of struggle, he eventually triumphed over this tragedy, and finally, late in life, received the Nobel Prize. *(135 minutes)*



March 15
“Slackers” (R)
Starring Devon Sawa, Jason Schwartzman, James King, Laura Prepon, Jason Segal and Michael Maronna.
Dave, Sam and Jeff are about to graduate from Holden University with Honors in lying, cheating and scheming. The three roommates have proudly scammed their way through the last four years of college and now, during final exams, these big-men-on-campus are about to be busted by the most unlikely dude in school. Ethan, an ambitious nerd with a bad crush, enters their lives one day and everything begins to unravel. When he accidentally catches Dave in an exam scam and gathers some incriminating evidence against him, Dave and his friends find themselves completely at his mercy. Threatening to expose the three slackers. Ethan offers a deal : he’ll let the guys off the hook on one condition - that they use their unethical expertise to get him the object of his desire, the brainy babe Angela. *(87 minutes)*

Chapel News

Worship schedule

The following services and classes are at the Luke Community Chapel unless stated otherwise:

Protestant

- ♦ Sunday traditional service is at 11 a.m. at the Chapel on the Mall.
- ♦ Sunday school program is at 9:30 a.m.
- ♦ Sunday gospel service is at 8:30 a.m. at the Chapel on the Mall
- ♦ Sunday contemporary service is at 11 a.m.; children’s church is also available
- ♦ “Singles at the Way” is Saturdays at 6 p.m.
- ♦ “Youth at the Way” is Tuesdays at 7 p.m.

Catholic

- ♦ Saturday Mass is at 5 p.m.
- ♦ Sunday Mass is at 9:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m.



- ♦ Weekday Mass is at noon

Jewish

- ♦ Shabbat service is at 6 p.m. every fourth Friday

Muslim

- ♦ Muslim worship is today at 1 p.m.

Religious education

- ♦ Confirmation classes are Sunday from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ CCD classes are at 11 a.m. in Bldg. 1150 in the third floor atrium
- ♦ Baptism seminars for parents of children under 7 years old are at 7 p.m. every first and second Monday of every month at “The Way.”

Youth events

- ♦ The junior Catholic youth group meets Tuesdays from 5 to 7 p.m.
- ♦ The Catholic youth group meets Wednesdays from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

For more information on these programs, call (623) 856-6211.

Outdoor Recreation

The 56th Services Squadron Outdoor Recreation Center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information on trips or rental equipment, including bicycles, hand held GPS and fishing poles, call (623) 856-6267 or go to www.luke.af.mil/56services. Click on the community support link and then outdoor recreation.

Horseback ride

A camp out and trail ride is March 16 –17 and April 28-29. The \$65 per person cost includes transportation, meals, rides and equipment.



Mexico shopping

A shopping trip to Algodones, Mexico, is Saturday. The \$20 per person cost includes transportation.

Whale watching

A two-day whale watching tour is Mar. 16-17. A three-hour guided excursion and an all- you- can eat Sunday brunch are included. The cost is \$130 per person.

Camping trip

A camping and hiking trip to Ciricahua Canyon is April 13 – 14. The cost is \$50 per person.



Laughlin tour

A Laughlin, Nev., gaming tour is Saturday. The \$5 per person cost includes transportation, buffet and coupon book.

Vineyard blessing

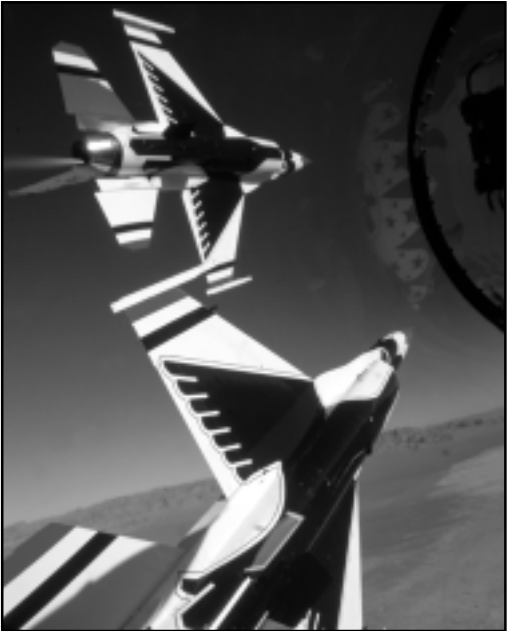
A trip to Callaghan Vineyard in Elgin, Arizona to attend the blessing of Sonoita Vineyards is April 20. The cost is \$40 per person.

Hollywood tours

A tour of Grauman’s Chinese Theater, Rodeo Drive and taping of “Hollywood Squares” and “Price is Right” is April 6-7. The cost is \$150 per person.

Luke Days 2002

March 23 & 24 at Luke Air Force Base



9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. March 23
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 24

Come and see:
The Thunderbirds
Air Shows
Static Displays
Military Hardware
Concession Stands

Free to all

Go to www.luke.af.mil for more information.

Around Base

Yellowstone RV rentals

The 366th Services Squadron at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho is offering RV rentals at Yellowstone National Park. The cost for active-duty and retired military, civilian Defense Department personnel and their families is \$55 per night. For more information call DSN 728-6333 or commercial (208) 828-6333.

CPR class

The Red Cross is sponsoring an adult CPR and first aid class April 6 at 8:30 a.m. in Bldg. 1150. The class is open to anyone with a military ID card and is limited to 10 students. The cost is \$30 and must be prepaid. For more information, contact the Red Cross office at (623) 856-7823.



Parenting class

Family Advocacy is holding a common sense parenting class Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Life Skills Center, Bldg. 317. Call (623) 856-3417 for registration.

Free child care

Active-duty members that have permanent change-of-station orders in or out of Luke can receive up to

20 hours of free child care. Registration forms are available at the Family Support Center, Bldg. 1113. Bring a copy of PCS orders for registration. For more information, call (623) 856-6841.

40's big band dance

The Arizona Wing is holding "A Night in the 40's Big Band Dance and World War II USO Show" March 16 at the Arizona Wing Hangar, Falcon Field Airport, 2017 N. Greenfield Rd., Mesa, Ariz. The cost is \$25 in advance, \$32 at the door. Call (480) 924-1940 for tickets.

Wood skills help

The Wood Skills staff offers one-on-one instruction during normal operating hours. Call (623) 856-6566 for more information.

Thrift shop

The new thrift shop location is Bldg. 610. Store hours are Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call (623) 935-5782 for more information.

Children's story time

The library sponsors a children's story time Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Thursday the stories are about first day of spring; March 21 about Big Bird's birthday, March 28 about Johnny Appleseed. Call (623) 856-7191 for more information.



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Around Base

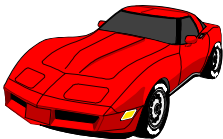
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Career Expo 2002

The Arizona Employers' Advisory Council Board of Directors is holding Career Expo 2002: Working Together for the Future of America, March 20 at the Arizona State Fairgrounds Exhibition Building from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See www.azjobfair.com or call (623) 856-6839, ext. 6781 for more information.

Vehicle resale lot

Luke active-duty, retirees and Defense Department civilians are invited to sell their personal vehicles at Luke's Vehicle Resale Lot, located behind the bowling center. Cost is \$10 per 30-day period. Vehicles must be registered with outdoor recreation. Bring proof of insurance and registration. Call (623) 856-6267 for more information.



Reunion

The 22nd Military Airlift Squadron is holding a reunion at Travis Air Force Base, Fairfield, Calif. April 19-21. Call Jack Bostick at (707) 425-3895 for more information.

Free admission

Complementary seven-day free admission passes to Disneyland, Calif. and Disney World, Fla., for use through April 30 are available at Information Tickets and Travel. Call (623) 856-6000 for more information.



Limited lodging space

Transient space is limited at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla. until further notice. Personnel are advised to continue to contact Tyndall Lodging for reservations, though individuals should also ensure they have funds to defray cost for residing off base. Call DSN 523-4211, Ext. 3346 or 3348 for more information

Toastmasters

Toastmaster meetings are Tuesdays at 6:30 a.m. at the Goodyear fire station, 3075 North Litchfield Road. For more information call (623) 536-2783.

Open recreation

The youth center invites teens, 13 to 18 years old, to play video games, pool, ping pong, basketball, foosball, or several board games Tuesdays from 4 to 8 p.m. in Bldg. 1143. Call (623) 856-6225 for more information.

Volunteer opportunity

The Youth Center is looking for volunteers to assist with the Easter Egg hunts during the annual Springfest Mar. 30 at Fowler Park. Call (623) 856-6225 for more information.

Tax assistance

The Legal Office offers free income tax assistance to active-duty and retired military personnel. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8 a.m. to noon Wednesdays at the 56th Support Center, Bldg. 1150, room 1064. Call (623) 856-3140 for more information.

Theater group

The Community Center is looking for individuals of all ages from the Luke community who would be interested in forming a local theater group including performers and production personnel. For more information call (623) 856-7152.



Cultural meals

The Ray Hensman Dining Facility features cultural meals Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Scheduled meals include Italian on Wednesday, Mexican on March 20 and southern on March 27.

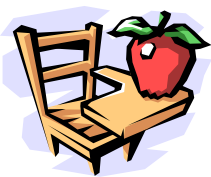
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Around Base

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Rio Salado

Rio Salado term II begins March 25. Placement testing is Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays at 1 p.m. To schedule an appointment call (623) 856-3239.



Comedy night

The Luke First Sergeants and Desert Star Enlisted Club present Michael Finney, comedian and magician, at the Desert Star Enlisted Club March 15 at 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and are available through first sergeants. Call (623) 935-2610 for more information.

Troops to Teachers

The Arizona Troops To Teachers office offers information on becoming a teacher. For more information call (623) 856-7725.

Gong Show

The community center presents The Gong Show, March 21 at 7 p.m. at the Base Theater and is looking for solo, duet, trio and group acts to sing, dance, perform comedy, magic, or a musical instrument. For more information call (623) 856-7152.

College scholarships

The Officers' Spouses' Club offers a \$500 scholarship to graduating high school seniors and \$1,000 to spouses of active-duty and retired military members for the 2002 and 2003 school year. Applications, due by March 15, are available at various locations on base. For more information call (623) 856-7191.

Airmen birthday meal

Airmen living in the base dorms celebrating a birthday in February and March are invited to attend a birthday meal March 21 at 5 p.m. in the Ray V. Hensman dining facility. Airmen



can enjoy a steak and lobster or steak and shrimp dinner served by their commander or first sergeant. For reservations call (623) 856-6238.

Swap meet

The community center sponsors a community swap meet at the Defense Logistics Agency facility located north of the intersection of El Mirage Street and Glendale Avenue March 16 from 7 a.m. to noon. There is a \$5 charge to those selling goods; the fee includes one table and a chair. For reservations call (623) 856-6267 or (623) 856-7152.

Oil change

The auto skills shop offers a complete oil change for \$19.95 for most vehicles, which includes up to 5 quarts of oil. Call (623) 856-6107 for an appointment.

Job Ready

Job Ready, a program to assist teens with effective job hunting skills, meets Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. Register by 8 p.m. Call (623) 856-6225 from more information.

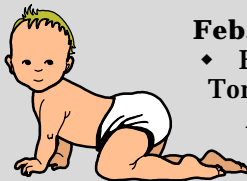
Heir Born

The Thunderbolt runs birth announcements the second Friday of each month. Those wishing to announce a birth should contact Kate Norris at the Thunderbolt office, Bldg. 452, (623) 856-6055.



Dec. 12

- Francine Fay, daughter of Jennifer and Ames Yazzie.



Feb. 16

- Estevan Tomas, son of Amanda and Steve Lopez.



Luke youth compete in Tae Kwon Do championship



Ronald Marcus, left, competes in the Arizona State Tae Kwon Do Championship Saturday at Horizon High School, Scottsdale.

By Airman 1st Class Susan McQueary
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Eleven of Luke's youth qualified for the Junior Olympics at the Arizona State Tae Kwon Do Championship Saturday.

"Our students did great," said Rosa Johnson, chief Tae Kwon Do instructor. "We represented Luke AFB with great honors."

In the color belt junior division, Bryce Darnell, 5, took home gold in forms and sparring for the 4 and 5-year-old white belt division. Markus Peoples, 6, placed gold in forms and sparring and Alexander McIntosh, 6, took silver in forms and gold in sparring for the 6 and 7-year-old yellow belt division. Jacob Glanton, 7, placed silver in forms and bronze in sparring for the 6 to 7-year-old green belt division. In the 8 and 9-year-old green belt division, Victoria Darnell, 8, placed silver in forms and gold in sparring. In the 12 and 13-year-old green belt division, Brittany Carbaugh, 12, took gold in forms and sparring. Ronald Marcus, 12, placed gold in forms and silver in sparring in the 12 and 13-year-old yellow belt division.

In the black belt junior division, Geneviene Burns, 10, placed silver in forms and gold in sparring in the 10 and 11-year-old division; Nathaniel Burns, 13, took home the bronze in forms and sparring in the 12 and 13-year-old division; and Joy Jackson, 9, placed gold in forms and sparring in the 8 and 9-year-old division.

Daniel Larson, 20, placed gold in forms and sparring for the adult yellow belt division. These students take classes through the youth center Tae Kwon Do program and the community center Jidokwan/Hapkido program and have qualified for the Junior Olympics, which will be held this summer in Orlando, Fla. For more information about the programs, call Ms. Johnson at (623) 877-3373.

Sports Shorts

Fitness run

A St. Patrick's Day fitness run is March 15 at 11 a.m. For more information, call the fitness center at (623) 876-6241.

Training camp

The youth center is sponsoring an Arizona Cardinals and Gatorade Junior Training Camp for children in 2nd through 5th grade Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the ball field behind the youth center building. Today is the last day to register. There is no cost for the camp. For more information, call the youth center at (623) 856-7470.

CPR class

An adult CPR and first aid class will be April 6 at 8:30 a.m. in Bldg. 1150. The class is open to anyone with a military ID card and will be limited to 10 students. The cost is \$30 and must be prepaid. For more information, call the Red Cross at (623) 856-7823.

Golf tournament

The Frank Luke chapter of the Air Force Association is sponsoring a golf tournament March 15 at 1 p.m. at the Falcon Dunes Golf Course. Lunch will be served at 12 p.m. The tournament is open to everyone, and the cost is \$35 for military members and \$58 for all others. The fees include range balls, greens fee and lunch. For more information, call (623) 846-7483.

Triathlon

Outdoor Recreation is sponsoring a spring triathlon April 13 at 7 a.m. The triathlon begins at the Silver Wings Pool and includes a 500-meter swim, 8.5 bike and 3-mile run. The cost is \$5. Register at Outdoor Recreation or call (623) 856-9334 for more information.

Panthers creep past 56th EMS, 7-6

By Airman 1st Class Susan McQueary
56th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

A grueling flag football playoff game between the 63rd Fighter Squadron Panthers and the 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Monday night at the flag football fields ended with the Panthers winning, 7-6.

A single point made the difference in this second game for the Panthers, who won the first game of the playoffs against the 61st Fighter Squadron Feb. 28.

The 56th EMS played offense first; however, a series of incomplete passes gave the Panthers control of the ball.

On the Panthers' first play, a pass from Terry Owens to Chad Ungrodt resulted in a touchdown. On the attempt for an extra point, Owens passed to John Brassfield, and the Panthers led 7-0.

On 56th EMS' next possession, a third-down pass from Jesse Marsh to John Rieckman resulted in a touchdown. In an attempt to tie the game, the 56th EMS

team went for one point, but Rieckman dropped a pass from Marsh not knowing the mistake would cost his team the game, and the Panthers led, 7-6.

The end of the first half was marked with several penalties for the 56th EMS team. On fourth down, the 56th EMS team tried for a first down, but a pass from Marsh intended for Rieckman was incomplete, and the Panthers gained possession.

The second half started with numerous incomplete passes by both teams. On fourth down, the Panthers punted to 56th EMS team member Benjamin Peterson, whose lateral pass to Mearl Robinson was incomplete.

The 56th EMS' quarterback, Marsh, ran the ball for a first down and was flagged by Ungrodt. On the second down, a pass from Marsh was intercepted by Brassfield, who was flagged by Rieckman.

The Panthers had a tough time making plays as the clock started to wind down. After an offside penalty, an incomplete pass to Ungrodt, an incom-

plete pass in the end zone intended for Brassfield, and a personal foul for roughing the passer, the score remained 7-6. Two more incomplete passes for the Panthers gave the 56th EMS team possession.

With six minutes remaining in the game, the 56th EMS team tried to turn it up a notch, but their offense was no match for the Panthers' defense. A penalty was called on the defense for holding, and the Panthers shouted in disagreement with the referee's call.

A pass from 56th EMS' quarterback Marsh to Ryan Darby was incomplete and the Panthers shouted out cheers. Two more incomplete passes by the 56th EMS team gave the Panthers possession as the referee gave the two-minute warning.

The Panthers called their last timeout on third down. Owens ran the ball for a first down and was flagged by Peterson. The game was called when the Panther's quarterback, Owens, was flagged by Christian Canales, and the final score was 7-6, Panthers.



Ryan Darby, 56th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, runs for a touchdown as Jeremy Kelley, 63rd Fighter Squadron, prepares for a 'tackle' at a playoff flag football game Monday. The 63rd FS snuck past the 56th EMS, 7-6.